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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
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INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE 0190
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE 0191
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE 0003

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 000100

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/W JANE DENNISON, AF/RSA PETER BARLERIN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/19/2019

TAGS: [MR](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: BENIN: RESPONSE TO QADHAFI-MAURITANIA DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 25557

Classified by: P/E CDay for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. PolOff delivered demarche to Thomas Adoumasse, Director of the Office of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 19. He took the points and promised to relay them to the AU team.

[1](#)2. C) Adoumasse elaborated on the issue of democratic elections and said that just because someone was voted into power, he did not have the right to act without limits, nor to set one ethnic group against another. He said that it was the responsibility of the great powers who guide development to keep democratically elected presidents in line. He noted that the people of Mauritania demonstrated against the president and in favor of the junta. He compared the situations in Guinea-Bissau and Madagascar and reiterated that elections did not give a president carte blanche to enrich himself and his family at the expense of the people or political opponents.

[1](#)3. (C) COMMENT. While he promised to send our demarche to his AU delegation, Adoumasse's comments seem to accept the coup as a fait accompli. Nothing he said leads us to believe he supports our position. We will report any substantive comments by the GOB on the issue septel. END COMMENT.
BROWN